

REMARKS

This communication responds to the Final Office Action mailed on May 12, 2008. No claims are amended, claims 1-26 are canceled, and claims 27-46 are added herein. As a result, claims 27-46 are now pending in this Application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-14, 16-18 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shattil (U.S. 2004/0086027; hereinafter “Shattil I”) in view of Priotti (U.S. 2004/0120410; hereinafter “Priotti”). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shattil I in view of Priotti and further in view of Shattil (U.S. 2002/0150070; hereinafter “Shattil II”). Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shattil I in view of Shattil II and Schill et al. (U.S. 2003/0227985; hereinafter “Schill”). Applicant does not admit that any of these references are prior art, and reserves the right to swear behind these references at a later date. Since claims 1-26 have been canceled, the rejection of these claims is moot.

With respect to the pending claims, the Applicant respectfully notes that the claimed subject matter is fully supported by the Application as-filed, and thus, no new matter has been added. Further, the Applicant respectfully notes that none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teaches the elements recited in the independent claims 27, 35, 40, and 44. Thus, the independent claims are not anticipated, and are not rendered obvious in view of the cited art. The dependent claims include additional, patentable subject matter, and are thus also not anticipated, nor obvious in view of the cited art.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's representative at (210) 308-5677 to facilitate prosecution of this Application. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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